



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Small Business**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**BRIGHT FUTURE FOR STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE**

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has commended Hurlstone Agricultural High School for its commitment to the primary industries sector, and urged students to continue on their path towards a rewarding career in agriculture.

Speaking to students, Ms Hodgkinson said it was pleasing to see agriculture is now a mandatory subject to HSC level at Hurlstone Agricultural High School.

“As agriculture students, you have an exciting opportunity to make a great contribution to both the wealth and growth of NSW, in an interesting and rewarding career,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

Ms Hodgkinson said Hurlstone Agricultural High School is situated on the last remaining farm land within what is now the Sydney metropolitan area, where staff and students operate a 145 hectare commercial farm.

“This background and understanding of the industry learnt through your studies will set you up to make lasting contributions to the agricultural sector,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The demand for graduates from agricultural institutions is stronger than ever, and all graduates who have a continuing interest in agriculture seem to get jobs. This is far from the case in many other university courses.”

Ms Hodgkinson said the NSW Government is committed to a strong agricultural education sector in NSW.

“The Department of Primary Industries’ Tocal College at Paterson, which offers a range of 19 courses across agriculture and land management, has just recently graduated 360 students,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“It augers well for the future of our rural industries, and reflects the strong interest in agricultural careers.”

Ms Hodgkinson said she was also delighted to see the interest from young women in agricultural education was strong, and growing.

"Many agricultural and related tertiary programs across Australia have a much higher level of female participation than male participation," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Here in NSW we are proud of the achievements of women in the primary industries, and the significant roles they play, as is highlighted by the annual NSW-ACT Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) NSW-ACT Rural Women's Award."